Title: Errata and updates to Oscar Esplá in Belgium 1936-1949

Date: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Last updated June 2, 2005.

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Version: 7.00

A book such as this can have its share of errors: Printing errors, omissions from the editing process, mistakes, wrong conclusions or interpretations, as well as opinions not shared by others. All those errors occur in the 'Belgian biography' of Oscar Esplá. And then there are those facts which are discovered after publication from further research or, sometimes new elements surface, spontaneously supplied by readers.

The categories of errors mentioned above allow me to give structure to the errata. Readers are invited to share their reactions and everything worth mentioning will be incorporated. If you wish to remain anonymous, I will honor this.

# Wrong conclusions

# Non-performance of Sonata del Sur on January 12, 1944

The conclusion drawn on page 118 where I say that *Sonata del Sur* was not yet finished is probably incorrect. Investigations about the influence of the Propaganda Abteilung on music programs have shown that the Sonata was bumped earlier in favor of a German work by Max Trapp (Nocturne, this was on March 23, 1941, see page 111) and hence the replacement in January 1944 by a Beethoven piano concerto may very well have been because of the same reason. See: (1) *La vie musicale à Bruxelles sous l'occupation 1940-1944*, by Marianne Klaric, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 1985, Mémoire couronné par la Classe des Beaux-Arts de l'Académie Royale de Belgique, call number T09492, page 107, and (2) *Correspondencia de Óscar Esplá a Eduardo del Pueyo, Perfil de una amistad*, by Paloma Otaola, Alicante 2001, Instituto Alicantino de Cultura "Juan Gil-Albert", ISBN 84-7784-850-5, page 43.

# Misrepresentations

The family of the composer has informed me that some facts are misrepresented and I regret that this has happened. More specifically, the following issues need revision:

- 1. page 15: On the trip to Brussels, the family did not stay a short while in Lyons. The description of who stayed and where is incorrect.
- 2. page 75: The conclusion that Mrs Nyssens was the one bringing clandestine meat is incorrect. Read 'a lady' rather than 'this lady'.
- 3. page 165: Where I write about Oscar Esplá visiting Belgium once he was established in Spain again there are omissions as I am informed. Esplá went by himself to Belgium in 1952 and 1957, while in 1964 and 1969 he went accompanied by his wife.
- 4. While it is somewhere written that Esplá was limited to travel after the war, the family informs me that this was not the case, mentioning trips to France and The Netherlands. To further precise the situation it must however be said that at least for some period of time he was not free to travel. His court case was dismissed a year after the end of the occupation, on September 13, 1945 (p120) but to attend the Paris performance of his Sonata del Sur on October 11, 1945 (p131) he still needed his lawyer to ask the court for permission to leave the country. After dismissal of his case he was no longer restricted in his moves.

# Editorial errors

By using an older version of the Acknowledgement section (page x-xi), the name of Mrs. Maria-Louisa Harrison of Cranleigh, United Kingdom, was unfortunately left out. It was only after the presentation of the manuscript to the family that I received (substantial) input from this daughter about the composer which caused a complete rewrite of the chapter on the Laboratory, as well as many other corrections and pieces of information which found their way into the published version.

# Additional information

Alfonso, page viii, footnote 1

Nicolás Alfonso died on October 2, 2002.



Nicolás Alfonso (1913 – 2002)

# De Becker, page 41

This says "De Becker lived outside Belgium for the rest of his life...". This is partly true.

De Becker was condemned to death in 1946. His sentence was changed to life imprisonment in 1947, to 17 years in 1950. On February 22, 1951 he was conditionally released. He tried to have the limitations (forbidden to live in Belgium, to publish) revoked at the Human Rights court. For further details see: Publication of the European Court for Human Rights, "De Becker" case, judgment of 27<sup>th</sup> March 1962. Registry of the Court, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1962.

#### Le Soir 100 ans, p254

1947. A la mi-juin la Cour militaire est saisi en appel de l'affaire du Soir "volé", et elle réduit le peines infligées par le premier juge.

La Cour condamne De Becker à la détention perpétuelle, Destrebecq à vingt ans de détention extraordinaire, Schraenen à quinze ans de travaux forcés, Beatse et De Ligne à dix ans de détention ordinaire, et Marlier à cinq ans.

# The March 23, 1941 entry, page 111

The announced performance of the *Sonata del Sur* was not performed by order of the Propaganda Abteilung. In stead was performed *Nocturne* by Max Trapp (see above).

Trapp, Max (Berlin, November 1, 1887 – Berlin, May 31, 1971)

#### The March 13, 1944 performance

Organized by Prisma in Ghent, Eduardo del Pueyo played a solo recital in which he include the Three Movimientos (Etude, Danse ancienne, Pasodoble). This should be included on page 118. I am indebted to Eric Derom for pointing out this reference.

# More performances in The Netherlands

Eduardo del Pueyo played in The Netherlands several times during the war. From the newspaper Het Vaderland two articles show that he included Esplá in his program. These performances were in Diligentia in The Hague: Het Vaderland from December 15, 1942

# Spaansche pianomuziek

DUARDO DEL PUEVO kan het zich au veroorloven een louter Spaansch programma te spelen, zooals Zondagmiddag in Diligentia. Doch ik geloof niet de eenige geweest te zijn, die ook, en speciaal van hem, nog een andere dan een Spaansche noot had willen hooren. Want zoo rijk en veelzijdig van fantasie, zoo zielsdiep of zielsbelangrijk, zoo doorwerkt, is toch het Spaansch-nationale muziek-compositoriale leven voor piano niet. Maar in die relatieve beperktheid is het kleur- en rhythmenleven; de directheid en de kracht der impressies, het zenuwenleven dezer muziek, toch bijna steeds boelend genoeg, al is het geestelijk perspectief niet zoo heel groot. Doch ook op deze basis kunnen de typen zich uitleven; Monpou (Cants Magies) in de richting Debussy, Turina, in die van Strauss meer. Espla wat conservatiever en in deze daardoor maktijker in het oor vallend (het pièce enfantine was een succes), Pedrell zeker hyper-iberia, veel hards en droogs (niet in den zin van vervelend), wreeds fels; Granados, Infante en voorale Albeniz en De Falla (toegift: Danse du feu) met de mees te ridderlijkheid, sierlijkheid, genlale flitsen, behalve de felheid, de caprice, de liefde voor het reëele, en de gebondenheid aan de impressie van het oogenblik, die allen in meerdere of mindere mate eigen is.

Del Fuevo is in den waren zin een vertolker, die met een rijk palet schildert.

Del Pueyo is in den waren zin een ver-tolker, die met een rijk palet schildert, die alles prachtig in scène zet, met zijn techniek dient en oproept, wat hij meent dat er in zit. Dat heeft men zeer gewaar-deerd en in veel applaus kenbaar ge-maakt. nbaar ge-A. de Wal maakt.

Het Vaderland from November 12, 1943

#### Kunst en Letteren

#### PIANOAVOND DEL PUEYO

talrijke publick, dat Diligentia gisteravond zelfa tot op het pedrum vulde, juist hiervan niet genoeg kon krijeen. Utbandig eischle men toegiften, Men hoorde dan nog een salonachtige mazurka van Zapis, waarvan het eerste thema sieck aan een impromptu van Schubert herlantert en voortieve stukken van Alberitz Jarre Bermele de befaamde Seguidillas.
Zoo is ook dit concert, ondanks de vele vrangleckens, waartoe zijn Beethovenspel anleeding guf, voor den fameuten Spaanschen planist een groot succes geworden.

J. Kasander

# Louis de Ruyter tweede concertmeester van het Residentie-

Near wij vernemen is de heer Louis de Ruyter, tot heden aanvoerder van de tweede vlolen in net fesidentie-Orkest, benoemd tot inverden oonderthekester van het geheele ensemble. Als zoodanig zal de heer de Ruyter een plaats in gaan memen aan den sersten lessenaar van de eerste violen naast den anderen tweeden concertmeester. Adolphe Poth, die voorloopig belast blijft met de waarmening van de functie van eersten concertmeester.

#### Kunstklapper

De Amsterdamsche Opera geoft Zondar-middag 14 Nov. in het Geb. v. K. en W. Gounods Faust. Zondag 14 Nov. geven Willem Noske en Theo van der Pat in Diligentia een sonaten-matische, o.a. met werken van Schubert en Brahms.

Zondagavond 14 Nov. geeft het Tooneel-gezelschap Thee Vink in Diligentia nog een voorstelling van het bilispel Lastige Vrouwtjes

# KUNSTAGENDA

ZATERDAG 13 NOVEMBER.

ZATERDAG II NOVEMBER, ERS. PRINCESSE SCHOUWBURG, 4.45 uur, Res. Toonesi: Hamlet, GEBOUW VOOR K, EN W, 3 uur, Concertgebouw Orkeet onder leiding van Eugen Johum, Soliste: Rona Boeisma, all, PULCHRI STUDIO, 730 uur: Saba, Ind. dan-

## Karel Willems

On several places I mention that the article by Karel Willems to which some dictionaries refer could not be located. It surfaced in the first half of 2005 in Belgium. As this article is not easily available and quite interesting, I dedicate a separate article on it and publish it in its entirety on my website. See The surfacing of the 'Karel Willems article'.

### Irene Lewisohn

Further investigation found that Irene Lewisohn had met with Kurt Schindler in Paris in the summer of 1930 or 1931 so it is safe to assume that in that period she had met with Esplá in Spain. Schindler returned to the United States in December 1931 and arrived in time to attend the performance of *A Mummer's Revel and the Masque of the Apples* based on a libretto by Irene Lewisohn. When Schindler died in November 1935, Miss Lewisohn acquired his personal collection. A committee of which she was part published the results of Schindler's field work which she cosponsored as *Folk music and poetry of Spain and Portugal – Música y poesía popular de España y Portugal, New York 1941*. The book was reprinted as facsimile and commented as *Música y poesía popular de España y Portugal, edición y estudio, Salamanca 1991*.

# Another library find

I am informed by Grazyna Michniewicz of the Frederick Chopin Museum in Warsaw of the following: "We have the edition of Oscar Espla's Sonata Espanola Op. 53 for piano, A Frederic Chopin in memoriam, in the collection of the Frederick Chopin Museum. This composition was written to the 100th Anniversary of Chopin's death[,] in October 1949, commissioned by UNESCO and has been published by Unión Musical Española Editores, Madrid 1952.

The print, with handwritten composer's signature, was gifted to the collection of Frederick Chopin Museum by UNESCO, in 1957".

# **Printing errors**

Page	Line	Is	Should be
31	6	Anthonys	Antonys
72	3	superscript 't'	t
73	1	colon at end of line	period
164	11 from bottom	Bourg-La-Reine	Bourg-la-Reine
166	13	in November	on November
176	8	contemporain	contemporaine
181	article PdM	les éloges qui nous	les éloges que nous
182	6	une place tout	une place de tout
182	9 from bottom	attendre	atteindre
183	7	une stade	un stade
183	9	espagnoles	espagnols
183	12	les représentatives	les plus représentatives
183	11 from bottom	l'égarait	s'égarait
184	2	à ses musique	à sa musique
184	9 from bottom	agit	agît
185	5 <sup>th</sup> paragraph	Asi	Así
257		Desecq	Deseck
257		de Man 183, 184	183-4
250	Emond	333p.	remove
			près

# **Update history**

Version	Date	Update	
5.00	2004	Added the March 1944 del Pueyo performance in Ghent	
6.00	May 27, 2005	Discovery of the article by Karel Willems, additional info on Irene	
	-	Lewisohn, del Pueyo's The Hague performances	
7.00	June 2, 2005	Warsaw library find	